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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch)

NORTH AMERICA

Early History of Idaho. By W. J. McConnell, who was present and cognizant of the events narrated. 420 pp. The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, 1913. $3. 9½ x 6.

The author lived fifty years in Idaho before he wrote this book. He shared in the dangers and hardships of the pioneer days and in the wealth that Idaho has bestowed upon many; and he also served his state as U. S. Senator and Governor. Rich in experiences and in memories, he has written this history of Idaho from the day of the trails, before wagon roads were built, to the admission of the territory into the Union. His story of the fortunes of Idaho, its ups and downs, and its wonderful development is very interesting.

The Canoe and the Saddle, or Klalam and Klickatat. By Theodore Winthrop. To which are now first added his western letters and journals. Edited, with an introduction and notes, by John H. Williams. xxvi and 332 pp. Map, ills. John H. Williams, Tacoma, 1913. $5. 9½ x 6½.

This volume has long been inaccessible, a great loss to admirers of Winthrop, since it is complementary to "John Brent." Winthrop died just when he gave promise of a leading position in American literature. This volume belongs to the period when he was struggling to form a style despite the faults of what then was American literature. To the editor of this volume Puget Sound is a passion and the glimpses of Tacoma are a shrine. Therefore it was to him a labor of love to rescue this work from the oblivion of out-of-print, to annotate its events, to enrich it with pictures. To this he has added Winthrop's journal when on the Pacific Coast and his letters covering the events herein narrated. The region traversed lies across the state of Washington from Port Townsend along the sound and by way of the Naches Pass to the Dalles of the Columbia. The work is one of our original sources for the Chinook Jargon. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

A Journey to Ohio in 1810. As Recorded in the Journal of Margaret Van Horn Dwight. Edited with an introduction by Max Farrand. Yale Historical Manuscripts. vi and 64 pp. Yale University Press, New Haven, 1913. 8½ x 5½.

The brief Journal of Miss Dwight's journey from New York to Ohio in 1810 is a human document of rare interest, written day by day on the journey, depicting the difficulties of travel, the roughness of the road, the characteristics of the people met, the regions passed through, ending in the joy of reaching the journey's end. It presents, in a striking manner, a graphic picture of travel a century ago. The descriptions are not without traces of humor, the criticisms are particularly individual, and the little volume is a contribution for an hour's reading that is well worth attention.

RICHARD ELWOOD DODGE.

Chicago and the Old Northwest, 1773-1835. A Study of the Evolution of the Northwestern Frontier, together with a History of Fort Dearborn. By Milo Milton Quaife. 480 pp. Ills., index. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1913. $4. 9½ x 6½.

Professor Quaife presents here much wealth of cited material. Two facts are conspicuous in his volume. One is that a narrative can seldom be made quite dull when the war whoop and the gleam of the scalping knife must appear on nearly every page; the other is that he has a quick sympathy with the rude life of the pioneer beyond the edges of civilization and also graces of style wherewith that life may be presented for study. He begins with the problem of man always in search of the easy path, in this case the Chicago portage as determining this particular spot as a tradeway and therefore destined to become a market. The chapter in which he discusses the portage leaves nothing to be desired for the purposes of the geographer. Every memorial of the past has been ransacked for its description and every narrative has been duly weighed as to its credibility, every point sedulously oriented· upon the natural features of the two rivers (the Des Plaines and the Illinois) and Mud Lake which set Chicago apart for a metropolis. The remainder of the work,—it ends with the close of the Black Hawk war and the beginning of the modern era of Chicago,—is food for the historian, but the opening chapters are proper subjects of a geographical review. They are excellently done and must stand as the most accurate statement of the situation and causes of the founding of the great city on the lakes. The empire of steam continues Chicago, but here we see that Chicago was marked out by nature for a metropolis by reason of the fact that its Mud Lake afforded the shortest and easiest pathway between Canada and Louisiana, the spot where canoes could be floated and dragged over a few miles of portage between the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi.

The Spanish Archives of New Mexico. By R. E. Twitchell. Vol. I. (In the office of the Surveyor-General, Santa Fé, New Mexico.) xxiii and 525 pp. Map, ills., index. Vol. II (In the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.). vi and 682 pp. Map, ills., index. The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1914.

A valuable list of New Mexican historical documents dating from the year 1621 to the American occupation. The compilation deals with Spanish colonization and the wars between Indians and Spaniards. It is particularly useful in the glimpses it affords of the condition of the Indians during the progress of settlement by Spaniards. Although the work contains no reference to the earliest exploration of the region, titles relating to the period covered are abundant. They are accompanied by concise summaries of the contents of the documents enumerated. Perhaps many of the users of these volumes would prefer having the contents merged into a single chronological list. A letter or symbol might have accompanied each title to designate the repository of the document.

The Old Spanish Missions of California. An historical and descriptive sketch. By Paul Elder. vi and 90 pp. Ills. Paul Elder & Co., San Francisco, 1913. $3.50. 11 x 8½.

The cult of the Franciscan missions is a modern affair in California. In the late '80s no Californian ever gave a thought to the missions except as survivals from a sluggish, preceding civilization which he wrote Mexican and for the most part pronounced Greaser. But with the commercial possibilities of winter tourist traffic California awoke to its missions as a visible asset and has exploited them with great success. We cannot avoid the fact that these structures were erected by inartistic missioners from country rock and clay with the help of ignorant Indians, the sole aim being utilitarian. A pale Melrose moonlight is an essential to viewing them aright. It is such a light that Mr. Elder has succeeded in casting on these more or less crumbling ruins in a series of extremely beautiful photographic prints and a text such as might be expected from perhaps our most successful artist in type. Here we have the missions at their best, a work invaluable for the traveler as he follows the holy path of the Camino Real from San Diego de Alcalá to the Mission Dolores and across the straits to San Francisco Solano. For those who may never make the pilgrimage this handsome volume will offer the best information, albeit nothing can give the distant reader the stimulus of the Californian air which always inspirits and at its worst, say at the end of a three days norther, fairly intoxicates. WILLIAM CHURCHILL.